

# San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program



Gleason Property, Contra Costa County  
Source: East Bay Regional Park District

## The **Fifth Year Report** FY 2003–2004

prepared by the  
**Bay Area Open Space Council**  
November 9, 2004

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

The San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program (Bay Area Conservancy Program) was established in 1997 through state legislation authored by Senator Byron Sher. The Bay Area Conservancy Program is administered by the California State Coastal Conservancy and received its first funding in July of 1999.

The Bay Area Conservancy Program provides a regional perspective and a coordinated funding approach. This report describes the projects that have been awarded funds in the fifth year of the Bay Area Conservancy Program. Grants have been awarded in all nine Bay Area counties that are within the jurisdiction of the Program, and for the full range of Program responsibilities—regionally significant public parks, trails, natural habitat preservation and restoration, farmland protection, and environmental education. All acquisitions have been with willing sellers, and have involved both the purchase of fee title ownership and conservation easements. Grant recipients have included public agencies and nonprofit organizations. All dollar amounts listed in this report are approximate and are subject to change as augmented with additional funds or reduced through project cost-savings measures. Additionally, not all projects approved by the Conservancy will be implemented due to unforeseen design, funding, or acquisition-related complications.

Despite the diversity of grant recipients and project purposes, all of the funded projects share several characteristics: They are regionally significant. Each achieves multiple goals. All are cooperative ventures bringing together many different agencies, organizations, and interests. They close institutional gaps and bring coherence and comprehensiveness to individual efforts.



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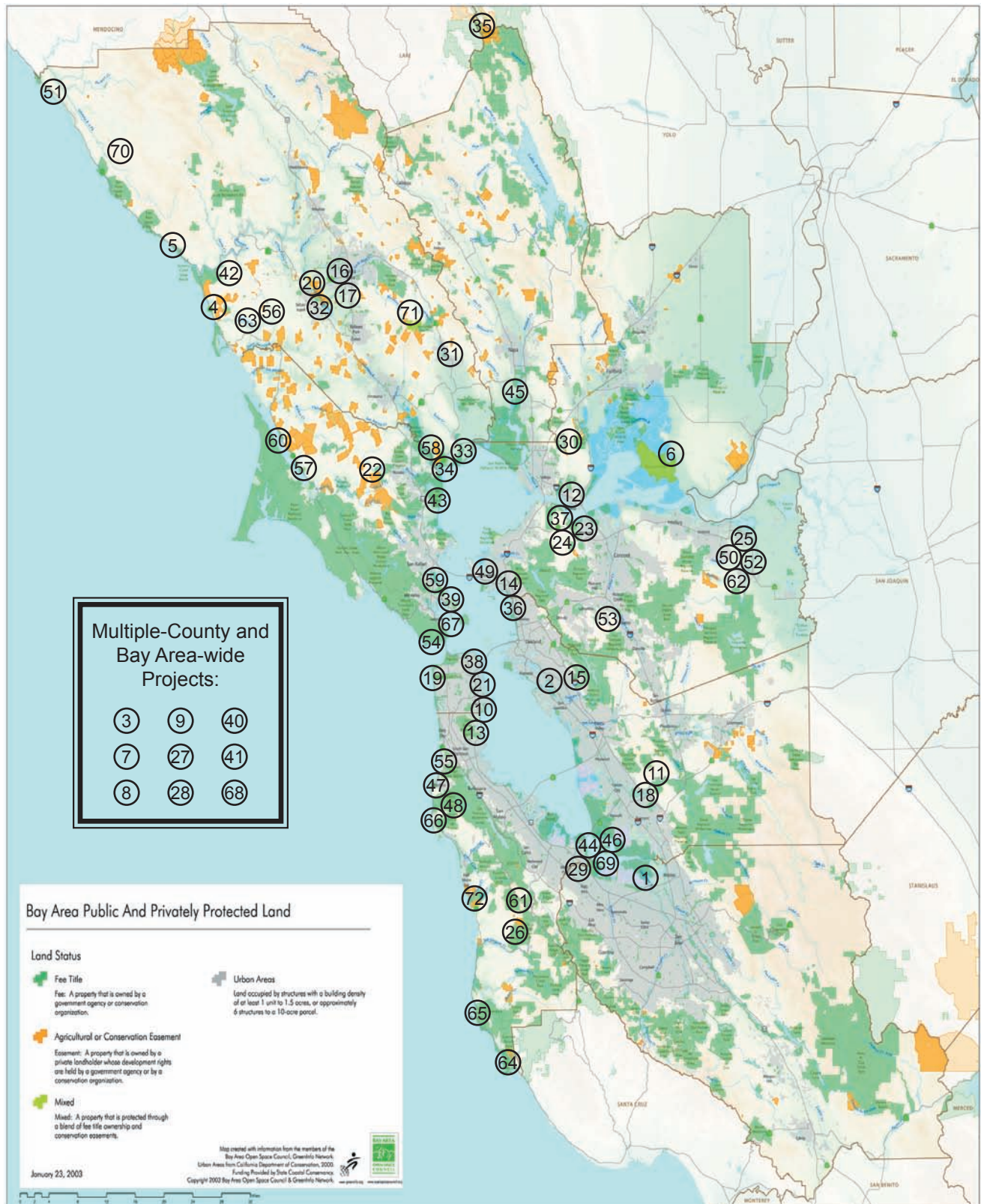
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# MAP OF BAY AREA CONSERVANCY PROJECTS (FY 2003–04)

Note: Numbers on the map refer to the projects listed on the next two pages in the Summary of Projects (FY 2003–2004). Multiple-county and Bay Area-wide projects are not shown on the map, but are listed in the box on the left.



# FUNDING SUMMARY OF BAY AREA CONSERVANCY PROGRAM PROJECTS (FY 2003–04)

\* = Multiple-County or Bay Area-Wide Project

## Grant Recipient/Project

### Association of Bay Area Governments (d)

- 1) Alviso Marina Shoreline Access Improvements
- 2) Tideater Park Improvements

### Bay Area Open Space Council

- \* 3) San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program: Planning and Development

### California Department of Parks and Recreation

- 4) Carrington Ranch Initial Public Uses
- 5) Sonoma County Coastal Trail, Phase I

### California Department of Water Resources

- 6) Meins Landing Acquisition

### California Invasive Pest Plant Council

- \* 7) Wildland Weed Workers Handbook for the San Francisco Bay Area

### California State Coastal Conservancy

- \* 8) Environmental Restoration and Education Projects
- \* 9) Invasive Spartina Project: Phase II Implementation of Control Program (e)

### California State Parks Foundation

- 10) Yosemite Canal Wetland Restoration and Public Access Plan: Phase II

### Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration

- 11) Stonybrook Creek Fish Passage

### City of Benicia

- 12) First Street Peninsula Pier Access Improvements

### City of Brisbane

- 13) San Bruno Mountain Habitat Acquisition: Brisbane Acres II

### City of El Cerrito

- 14) Baxter Creek Restoration Design and Public Access

### City of Oakland

- 15) Arroyo Viejo Restoration Project

### City of Santa Rosa

- 16) Prince Memorial Greenway: Phase 2004

### County of Sonoma

- 17) Joe Rodota / West County Rail-to-Trail Extension: Additional Construction

### East Bay Regional Park District

- 18) Ridge Trail Planning

### Friends of Parks and Recreation

- 19) South Windmill Restoration and Interpretive Center

### Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation

- 20) Laguna de Santa Rosa: Restoration Management Plan

Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (c) (some estimated)
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\$ 500,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 1,657,000
\$ 250,880	\$ 186,381	\$ 692,505
\$ 375,000		\$ 470,000
\$ 260,000		\$ 75,000
\$ 455,000		\$ 110,000
\$ 300,000		\$ 589,000
\$ 19,000		\$ 14,000
\$ 665,000		\$ 1,997,000
\$ 700,000		\$ 453,200
\$ 650,000		\$ 724,000
\$ 50,000		\$ 44,250
\$ 150,000		\$ 410,000
\$ 61,355		\$ 74,700
\$ 100,000		\$ 35,000
\$ 400,000		\$ 564,500
\$ 137,600		\$ 4,619,892
\$ 197,000		\$ 81,286
\$ 110,000		\$ 40,000
\$ 750,000		\$ 2,700,000
\$ 225,000		\$ 100,000

Continued...

# FUNDING SUMMARY OF BAY AREA CONSERVANCY PROGRAM PROJECTS (FY 2003–04)

\* = Multiple-County or Bay Area-Wide Project

## **Grant Recipient/Project**

### *Literacy for Environmental Justice*

21) Living Classroom Project: Education and Interpretive Center

Bay Area Conservancy Program (a)	Additional Conservancy Funding (b)	Matching Funds (c) (some estimated)
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\$	400,000		\$	1,169,306
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### *Marin Agricultural Land Trust*

22) Grossi Ranch Conservation Easement

\$	585,000		\$	1,294,800
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### *Muir Heritage Land Trust*

23) Alhambra Creek Restoration and Environmental Education Collaborative Project

\$	40,000		\$	24,900
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24) Dutra Ranch Acquisition

\$	600,000		\$	315,000
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### *Natural Heritage Institute*

25) Marsh Creek Fish Passage Project

\$	35,000		\$	71,000
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### *Peninsula Open Space Trust*

26) Driscoll Ranch Acquisition

\$	6,000,000		\$	15,844,000
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### *PRBO Conservation Science*

\* 27) Habitat Conversion Model

\$	200,000			
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### *San Francisco Estuary Institute*

\* 28) Rapid Assessment for Exotic Organisms in San Francisco Bay

\$	25,750		\$	40,000
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### *San Francisquito Watershed Council*

29) San Francisquito Creek Watershed Steelhead Recovery

\$	25,000	\$	208,000	\$	92,500
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### *Solano Land Trust*

30) Eastern Swett Ranch Acquisition

\$	575,000		\$	1,575,000
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### *Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District*

31) Montini Acquisition

\$	1,250,000		\$	12,350,000
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### *Sonoma County Water Agency*

32) Laguna de Santa Rosa: Phase II Sedimentation Study

\$	225,000		\$	3,188,000
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### *Sonoma Land Trust*

33) San Pablo Baylands Restoration Program

\$	240,000		\$	955,547
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34) Sonoma Baylands Public Access

\$	500,000			
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### *University of California Natural Reserve System*

35) McLaughlin Reserve Acquisition

\$	200,000			
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### Sub-Total

\$	17,256,585	\$	544,381	\$	52,371,386
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### Total Conservancy Funds

\$17,800,966

Program Funding Leverage: BACP Funds/Matching Funds

25%

75%

## **Bay Area Projects Using Additional Coastal Conservancy Funds**

### *Association of Bay Area Governments (d)*

36) Cerrito Creek Connector Trail

\$	191,358	\$	248,791
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37) Martinez Connector Trail

\$	265,000		
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38) Mission Creek Bikeway

\$	50,000	\$	135,000
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39) Trestle Glen Boulevard Pathway

\$	205,700	\$	248,791
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Continued...

# BAY AREA PROJECTS USING ADDITIONAL COASTAL CONSERVANCY FUNDS

\* = Multiple-County or Bay Area-Wide Project

## Grant Recipient/Project

### Bay Area Open Space Council

* 40) Central Coast Regional Collaboration	\$	75,000	\$	124,500
* 41) San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals (f)			\$	49,000

### California Department of Parks and Recreation

42) Willow Creek Acquisition	\$	4,187,000	\$	16,373,000
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### California State Coastal Conservancy

43) Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project (g)	\$	900,000		
44) South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Planning (h)			\$	3,000,000

### California Wildlife Conservation Board

45) Stanly Ranch Wetland Acquisition (i)			\$	1,500,500
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### Center for Collaborative Policy

46) South Bay Salt Ponds: Facilitation and Public Outreach (j)			\$	400,000
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### City of Pacifica

47) San Pedro Creek Watershed Enhancement: Capistrano Bridge Fish Passage Improvements	\$	545,000	\$	880,000
48) San Pedro Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan: Phase I Implementation	\$	750,000	\$	1,150,000

### City of Richmond

49) Richmond Scenic Overlooks (k)			\$	45,000
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### Contra Costa Resource Conservation District

50) Marsh Creek Stewardship Program (l)			\$	70,000
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### County of Sonoma

51) Sea Ranch Bluff Top Trail Repair Feasibility Study	\$	40,000	\$	10,000
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### Delta Science Center

52) Marsh Creek Stewardship Program (l)			\$	60,000
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### East Bay Regional Park District

53) Gleason Property Acquisition	\$	2,200,000	\$	1,708,000
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### Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

54) Golden Gate National Parks Coastal Trail Signage	\$	518,500	\$	1,829,733
55) Mori Point Coastal Trail Planning	\$	74,000	\$	107,100

### Harmony Union School District

56) Salmon Creek Green School	\$	300,000	\$	90,300
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### Marin Agricultural Land Trust

57) Giacomini Ranch Conservation Easement	\$	750,000	\$	1,180,000
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### Marin Audubon Society

58) Petaluma Marsh Restoration Expansion (m)			\$	1,912,280
59) Triangle Marsh Restoration (n)			\$	285,000

### Marin Resource Conservation District

60) Tomales Bay Watershed Enhancement Program	\$	600,000	\$	602,000
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Continued...

# BAY AREA PROJECTS USING ADDITIONAL COASTAL CONSERVANCY FUNDS

\* = Multiple-County or Bay Area-Wide Project

## Grant Recipient/Project

### Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

61) El Corte de Madera Staging Area and Ridge Trail Planning Project

\$ 31,000 \$ 31,000

### Natural Heritage Institute

62) Marsh Creek Stewardship Program (l)

\$ 114,000

### Occidental Arts and Ecology Center

63) Salmon Creek Estuary Enhancement Plan

\$ 300,000 \$ 257,000

### Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge

64) Año Nuevo Island Habitat Restoration

\$ 88,000 \$ 597,844

### Peninsula Open Space Trust

65) Bolsa Point Ranches Acquisition

\$ 5,000,000 \$ 34,000,000

66) Pillar Point Bluff Acquisition and Trail Planning

\$ 1,085,000 \$ 1,700,000

### Richardson Bay Regional Agency

67) San Francisco Bay Plan Implementation Assistance (k)

\$ 30,170

### Sail San Francisco

\* 68) Tall Ships Exposition and Environmental Education Projects

\$ 125,000 \$ 100,000

### San Francisco Estuary Institute

69) South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Planning (j)

\$ 200,000

### Sotoyome Resource Conservation District

70) Sonoma Coast Grazing Management Plan

\$ 60,000 \$ 10,000

### Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District

71) Watershed and Hazardous Conditions Signs: Sonoma County

\$ 60,000 \$ 25,000

### Sustainable Conservation

72) Permit Roadmap for Off-Stream Water Storage: San Mateo and Northern Santa Cruz Counties

\$ 375,000 \$ 150,000

## Notes:

a) BACP Funds are those directly appropriated to the Bay Area Conservancy Program.

b) Additional Conservancy Funds are appropriated to the State Coastal Conservancy as an agency, of which some may be used by the BACP.

c) Matching Funds are all other funds, including grants to the Conservancy from the Wildlife Conservation Board, Bay-Delta Authority, and others.

d) Additional Conservancy funding is from ABAG's Bay Trail Block Grants previously authorized in September 1999 and December 2000. Funds listed are those disbursed this year.

e) \$349,500 of the matching funds are through two grants from the California Bay-Delta Authority.

f) \$16,500 of matching funds are through a grant from the Resources Agency.

g) The Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project was previously authorized at \$13.8 million. State funding is based on a total project cost of \$55.8 million.

h) \$3,000,000 of matching funds are through a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board.

i) \$152,000 of Matching Funds is through a settlement between the Regional Water Quality Control Board and one of its dischargers.

j) Matching funds are through a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board.

k) Matching funds are through a grant from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

l) Matching funds are through a grant from the California Bay-Delta Authority.

m) \$339,000 of matching funds are through a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board, and \$1,320,301 of matching funds are through a grant from CalTrans.

n) \$90,000 of matching funds are through a grant from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.



## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE BAY AREA CONSERVANCY PROGRAM (FY 2003–2004)**

### **Association of Bay Area Governments**

#### **Alviso Marina Shoreline Access Improvements**

Location: At the southern edge of San Francisco Bay, in the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County

- Bay Program Funds: \$500,000  
Additional Conservancy Funds: \$150,000  
Matching Funds: \$1,657,000  
Note: Additional Conservancy funding is from ABAG's Bay Trail Block Grants previously authorized in September 1999 and December 2000. Funds listed are those disbursed this year.

The County of Santa Clara will construct shoreline access and recreation improvements at the Alviso Marina County Park. As part of the project, the County will expand and improve staging areas; install interpretive and directional signs; construct trails connecting to residential areas, businesses, and regional trail systems; develop a wildlife observation platform, observation seating areas, and a 2,500-square-foot observation boardwalk crossing the former marina basin; as well as install new picnic areas, improved landscaping, and entrance improvements. The shoreline access and recreation improvements will provide much needed recreational improvements in the Alviso community, and will also serve a regional population from the metropolitan region of the City of San Jose. The project is immediately adjacent to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, which will eventually include public access and recreation improvements as well.



#### **Tidewater Park Improvements**

Location: Part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline on the Oakland waterfront, Alameda County

- Bay Program Funds: \$250,880  
Additional Conservancy Funds: \$186,381  
Matching Funds: \$692,505  
Note: Additional Conservancy funding is from ABAG's Bay Trail Block Grants previously authorized in September 1999 and December 2000. Funds listed are those disbursed this year.

The East Bay Regional Park District will construct the first phase of public access and recreation improvements at Tidewater Park in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline. The project will complete a portion of the San Francisco Bay Trail along the

Oakland waterfront and provide recreational opportunities for an underserved urban population. There are spectacular views from Tidewater Park of San Leandro Bay and the Alameda waterfront, and Tidewater Park is an important shoreline access point and piece of open space along the waterfront. Phase I improvements at Tidewater Park will include completion of 0.4 mile of multi-use Bay Trail, restrooms, 1.4 acres of turf with trees and irrigation, picnic areas, pathways, replacement of the access road, the addition of utilities under the access road, and a parking lot for 65 cars.

### **Bay Area Open Space Council**

#### **San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program: Planning and Development**

Location: San Francisco Bay Area Counties

- Bay Program Funds: \$375,000; Matching Funds: \$470,000

The Bay Area Open Space Council will further develop and assist in the achievement of the natural resource and recreation goals of the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program over a two-year period. The Council will undertake several new,

comprehensive studies, including the development of regional upland habitat goals and analysis of regional trail and camping facility financial and organizational needs. The Council will also continue with partnership and capacity building projects around the region. BAOSC is a collaboration of more than 50 public and nonprofit land management agencies and organizations, and has helped keep the Bay Program well-informed of regional needs and well-acquainted with the strengths and priorities of the Council members in an efficient and effective way. The leadership and strategic thinking of the BAOSC have played a critical role in the growth, development, and success of the Bay Program and have helped it fulfill key requirements of its legislation.

## **California Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **Carrington Ranch Initial Public Uses**

Location: Coastal Sonoma County

- Bay Program Funds: \$260,000; Matching Funds: \$75,000

The California Department of Parks and Recreation will undertake planning, environmental analysis, and permitting activities for public access on the 344-acre Carrington Ranch and to initiate the removal of unsafe and/or unnecessary buildings on the ranch. The property was acquired by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District in May of 2003, and is expected to be transferred to DPR to become an integral part of the Sonoma Coast State Beaches facility, which has the third highest annual visitor rate within the State Park system. DPR is willing to take on ownership and management of the property, but due to budget constraints is unable to undertake the necessary planning and initial site development activities required to open the property to the public. Conservancy funding enables the planning process to begin immediately, facilitating public use and enjoyment of the property in the near term.

### **Sonoma County Coastal Trail, Phase I**

Location: Coastal Sonoma County

- Bay Program Funds: \$455,000; Matching Funds: \$110,000

The California Department of Parks and Recreation will plan, evaluate impacts to the environment, and conduct minor trail construction projects for the Coastal Trail on public lands in Sonoma County. The project will serve as a model for other jurisdictions, agencies, and nonprofit organizations involved with the Conservancy on coastal trail implementation. The planning efforts will include three tasks: trail layout and design, environmental impact analysis, and permitting. The four trail segments included in this project are located at Salt Point State Park, Fort Ross State Historic Park, the Red Hill facility of Willow Creek State Park, and the Carrington Ranch Trail. The Salt Point trail meanders along the open marine terrace upslope into the forested terrace and will connect with three day-use areas and two campgrounds. The trail at Fort Ross will skirt the edge of the bluff and will connect two major recreation areas of the park. The Red Hill Trail will pass entirely through coastal grassland from Shell Beach and will not only connect with existing trails, but also provide a connection for future inland trails. The Carrington Ranch Trail will be a segment of the Coastal Trail and will also connect with two inland trail systems.

## **California Department of Water Resources**

### **Meins Landing Acquisition**

Location: Adjacent to the Montezuma Slough, unincorporated Solano County

- Bay Program Funds: \$300,000; Matching Funds: \$589,000

The California Department of Water Resources will acquire the 668-acre Meins Landing property. The property is nestled in a horseshoe bend of the Montezuma Slough and is located directly across the slough from the Department of Fish and Game's Grizzly Island Wildlife Management Area. DWR has identified Meins Landing as an opportunity for acquisition because of its potential to be restored to tidal marsh. Unlike many sites in the marsh, this property is geographically isolated from other managed wetlands so there is no need to construct and maintain new interior levees in order to restore tidal action. Restoring tidal action to this property is expected to enhance the existing pickle weed on the site and to convert some areas dominated by non-native species to tidal marsh, enhancing habitat for the salt marsh harvest mouse. Once restored, the project will create tidal marsh that is connected to transitional uplands which is expected to create additional habitat benefit for other native species such as the black rail, clapper rail and burrowing owl.

## California Invasive Pest Plant Council

### Weed Workers Handbook for the San Francisco Bay Area

Location: San Francisco Bay Area

- Bay Program Funds: \$19,000; Matching Funds: \$14,000

The California Invasive Pest Plant Council will prepare, publish, and distribute a “Weed Workers Handbook for the San Francisco Bay Area.” The handbook is designed for accessible reference to information needed by those developing projects involving the control of invasive plants, and presents background information on the issues regarding invasive plants, describes the variety of tools used to control these plants in a restoration context, and focuses on 35 of the most invasive plants found in the Bay Area. Over the last decade, the knowledge about invasive species has grown rapidly and invasive plant control became a key component of restoration. Volunteers have become a highly effective force in vegetation management and habitat restoration. The handbook focuses on using a modified integrated pest management (IPM) strategy, including these techniques judged most suitable for organizations utilizing volunteers. Distribution of the handbook commenced in July 2004.

## California State Coastal Conservancy

### Environmental Restoration and Education Projects

Location: Various locations around the Bay Area

- Bay Program Funds: \$665,000  
Matching Funds: \$1,997,000

Fourteen nonprofit organizations were awarded funds for habitat restoration projects undertaken by school children as part of these organizations’ environmental education programs for students in grades K-12. Environmental restoration projects are often an excellent forum for teaching children not only an appreciation for the natural world, but also basic science and ecological concepts in a hands-on way. The funded projects are listed below:

- The Watershed Project (formerly Aquatic Outreach Institute): Restoration of serpentine grasslands and fresh water seep adjacent to Mira Vista Elementary School, Richmond, Contra Costa County.
- The Bay Institute of San Francisco: Restoration of four degraded creek sites on ranching lands in Tomales Bay and Estero de San Antonio watersheds, Marin and Sonoma Counties.
- California State Parks Foundation: Removal of exotic plants and planting of species native to the sand dunes at Half Moon Bay State Park, San Mateo Counties.
- Carquinez Regional Environmental Education Center: Removal of exotic plants and planting of species native to Edwards Creek in the Carquinez Regional Shoreline, Contra Costa County.
- Circuit Rider Productions: Restoration of riparian and steelhead habitats on agricultural lands along the Russian River, Sonoma County.
- Golden Gate Audubon Society: Removal of exotic plants and native species planting along mouth of Elmhurst Creek, Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline, Alameda County.
- Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy: Removal of exotic species and growing and planting of species native to the wetlands, dune, coastal scrub, riparian, redwood forests and oak woodland areas in the Golden Gate National Parks and Recreation Area, San Mateo, San Francisco, Marin Counties.
- KIDS for the BAY (a project of Earth Island Institute): Creek restoration on Wildcat Creek (San Pablo), Baxter Creek (Richmond), Sausal Creek (Oakland), and East Bay Municipal Utility District lands, Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.
- Land Trust of Napa County: Removal of exotic plants and native species planting in oak woodlands on Connelly Ranch and public lands in Napa County.
- LandPaths: Restoration of creek, vernal pool, oak woodlands at three sites in Sonoma County.
- Muir Heritage Land Trust: Removal of exotic plants and planting of species native to Alhambra Creek, Martinez, Contra Costa County.
- Pescadero Conservation Alliance: Removal of exotic plants and native species planting on public and private lands along coastal San Mateo County.





- Sonoma Ecology Center: Removal of exotic plants and planting of riparian species along a steelhead and Chinook stream in Sonoma Creek watershed, Sonoma County.
- Save San Francisco Bay Association: Removal of invasive plants and growing and planting of native wetland and riparian species at MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline, San Francisco Creek, Tolay Creek and Tubbs Island, in Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma Counties.

## Invasive *Spartina* Project: Phase II Implementation of Control Program

Location: Baylands and lower creek channels of the nine Bay Area counties

- Bay Program Funds: \$700,000; Matching Funds: \$453,200  
Note: \$349,500 of the matching funds are through two grants from the California Bay-Delta Authority.

The Conservancy has managed the Invasive *Spartina* Project since 2000 with the purpose of creating a regionally coordinated effort to control and eradicate invasive cordgrass (*Spartina*) from the San Francisco Estuary, and has prepared environmental documentation to fund and implement control efforts. Through two Conservancy Board actions, the ISP Control Program will purchase equipment, contract for environmental consulting services, create a public signage program, and fund demonstration control projects on 14 sites. The grantees for the control projects are the Alameda Flood Control District, the East Bay Regional Park District, the City of Palo Alto, the Marin Conservation Corps, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the USFWS Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Friends of Corte Madera Creek, National Audubon Society, and California Wildlife Foundation. Cumulatively, projects by these grantees initiate treatment on over 400 acres, comprising about 25 percent of the non-native *Spartina* invasion. Each demonstration site will be monitored for control efficacy, and water quality monitoring will also be done at some of these sites. Additionally, educational signage will inform the public about what they observe as treatment is occurring.



## California State Parks Foundation

### Yosemite Canal Wetland Restoration and Public Access Plan: Phase II

Location: Bayview–Hunters Point, City and County of San Francisco

- Bay Program Funds: \$650,000; Matching Funds: \$724,000

The California State Parks Foundation will develop detailed designs, engineering specifications, CEQA documents, and permit documentation for wetland restoration and public access improvements, and for siting and soils engineering for a nature center at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area. This work will lead to the restoration of approximately 34 acres along the Yosemite Canal to tidal mudflats, marsh, a nesting island, an upland transition zone, new and enhanced public access trails, and a nature center for environmental education. The Yosemite Canal has experienced significant degradation of water quality due to landfill, siltation from soil erosion, industrial contamination, non-point source pollution, wastewater overflows, and illegal dumping. These largely unchecked influences have adversely affected the remaining habitat and wildlife, degraded the fisheries resulting in the necessity for warning postings in the area, complicated recreational and park planning, and limited recreational opportunities.

## Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration

### Stonybrook Creek Fish Passage

Location: Alameda Creek watershed, unincorporated Alameda County

- Bay Program Funds: \$50,000; Matching Funds: \$44,250

The Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration will prepare conceptual designs for two road culverts that currently prevent fish migration in Stonybrook Creek. Stonybrook Creek is a tributary of Alameda Creek, the largest drainage to southern San Francisco Bay, which once had a significant steelhead fishery, but 80 years of urbanization and construction of water diversion and flood control structures have ended these fish runs. However, small numbers of anadromous fish still continue to return to the lower portions of Alameda Creek. Stonybrook Creek constitutes the best available salmonid habitat in the Alameda Creek watershed downstream from the Sunol Valley. This project will complete the necessary conceptual

designs to modify the Palomares Road culvert and an addition road crossing to make an additional 3,000 linear feet of spawning and rearing habitat available. Currently, there is an impassable structure in the lower Alameda Creek watershed at the BART over-crossing. A fish passage project is expected to be complete within five years and the Stonybrook Creek culverts will be very important to encouraging successful spawning in the upper watershed.

## City of Benicia

### First Street Peninsula Pier Access Improvements

Location: City of Benicia, on Carquinez Strait, Solano County

- Bay Program Funds: \$150,000  
Matching Funds: \$410,000

The City of Benicia will improve public access to the First Street Peninsula Pier on Carquinez Strait. The project will result in the paving of a 1.2-acre degraded gravel staging area that covers most of the First Street Peninsula and serves the fishing pier at its tip. Facility improvements will include ADA-accessible parking and restroom facilities, a stormwater drainage system, lighting, curbs, striping, a turnaround, a paved perimeter path, and interpretive signs. The First Street Peninsula Pier is close to the city's commercial district and is a popular destination for fishing, strolling, and passive recreation. However, access to and use of the site is limited. Visitors must cross the large parking area to reach the pier itself, either by crossing the potholed gravel parking area or walking along a paved perimeter pathway that exists on one side of the peninsula only. The City of Benicia will pave the parking area with porous asphalt, and add 65 striped parking stalls (including three handicapped spaces), street lights, and an ADA-accessible restroom that will comply with guidelines determined by the Downtown Historic Conservation Plan.



Source: San Bruno Mountain Watch



## City of Brisbane

### San Bruno Mountain Habitat Acquisition: Brisbane Acres II

Location: Upper slopes of San Bruno Mountain, San Mateo County

- Bay Program Funds: \$61,355  
Matching Funds: \$74,700

The City of Brisbane will acquire two one-acre sites adjacent to San Bruno Mountain State and County Park and other City-owned natural open space lands. San Bruno Mountain is home to a variety of rare, endangered, and unique species of plants and animals, many which are found nowhere else. Among the endangered animals

are the Mission blue and Callippe silverspot butterflies. The Callippe silverspot butterfly was recently listed as endangered pointing to the critical need for preserving its habitat to reverse the decline in its population. Endangered butterfly habitat, characterized by low grass, ridges, and the butterflies' host plants, is found on approximately 1,200 acres on the mountain. Some of the most critical butterfly habitat is located within Brisbane Acres. Out of Brisbane Acre's 51 one-acre contiguous sites that are in a relatively natural state, the City has succeeded in acquiring 21 lots. Acquisition of these two sites expands the City's ownership to a total of 23 contiguous acres of high quality butterfly habitat. Acquisition also enables the City to take measures to stop the spread of invasive plant species that threaten the viability of the habitat.



## City of El Cerrito

### Baxter Creek Restoration Design and Public Access

Location: El Cerrito and Richmond, Contra Costa County

- Bay Program Funds: \$100,000  
Matching Funds: \$35,000

The City of El Cerrito will produce final construction documents and a maintenance and management plan for restoration of a 650-foot stretch of Baxter Creek and a parallel multi-use trail; to complete environmental review and obtain permits for the construction; and to create educational signage for this public open space.

Restoration of this section of the creek will enhance habitat, water quality, aesthetics, and educational opportunities. The bicycle and pedestrian trail will enhance recreational opportunities and transit connections for the region. Baxter Creek is a channelized urban creek that flows from the East Bay hills to San Francisco Bay. Sections upstream and downstream have already been restored, but this 650-foot stretch suffers from erosion, overgrowth of invasive exotic plants in parts, and lack of canopy cover in other parts. Water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife are degraded. The creek occasionally floods and is frequently clogged with trash. Planned upgrading of this parcel includes the construction of a paved extension to the Ohlone Greenway. The trail will parallel the creek and exit the property at San Pablo Avenue. Efforts are underway on the opposite side of San Pablo Avenue to build the Richmond Greenway, another paved multi-use trail leading to the Bay Trail.



## City of Oakland

### Arroyo Viejo Restoration Project

Location: Knowland Park, Oakland, Alameda County

- Bay Program Funds: \$400,000; Matching Funds: \$564,500

The City of Oakland will restore a 1,000-linear-foot section of Arroyo Viejo Creek and improve public access, recreation, and education along the creek. Restoration work on the creek involves removal of eroding creek walls and regrading banks to increase water-holding capacity and to open up views and access to the creek. The banks will be revegetated with native riparian plants to improve habitat, protect water quality, and stabilize banks. The project will include construction of permeable pathways that will facilitate safe access to the creek. These access points will have interpretive signage informing the public about creek ecology issues. Additionally, five outdoor interpretive classrooms will be created and equipped with seating and interpretive signage. Each classroom will focus on a specific watershed topic like watershed overview, structural elements of the creek, water quality, riparian plant life, and wildlife. The classrooms will be natural areas along the creek side equipped with tree logs used for sitting and educational signage.



## City of Santa Rosa

### Prince Memorial Greenway: Phase 2004

Location: City of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

- Bay Program Funds: \$137,600  
Matching Funds: \$4,619,892

The City of Santa Rosa will construct pathway curbing, stairs, and fencing along a 950-foot stretch of creek that is part of the Prince Memorial Greenway Project. The City-adopted Santa Rosa Creek Master Plan, inclusive of the downtown section Greenway Project, recommends enhancement of the Santa Rosa creek for fish and wildlife habitat, creation of an open space corridor along the Creek, development of recreational facilities, and the provision of educational opportunities.

for citizens of Santa Rosa and the surrounding area. The Phase 2004 of the Greenway Project includes a new bike path on the north side of the creek, concrete pedestrian paths, a pedestrian bridge, stairs, fencing, lighting, stone columns, storm drains, retaining walls, erosion control measures including extensive planting, interpretive signs, and a new 22,000-square-foot public plaza. The new trails will provide linkages between six miles of existing trail along the creek and other recreational facilities. Specifically, it will link downtown Santa Rosa to the Santa Rosa Creek Trail, a City-owned 80-acre recreational facility, and the regional bicycle/pedestrian trail system of the Joe Rodota/West County Regional Trail in the western part of Santa Rosa and the City of Sebastopol in western Sonoma county. The project will also link to the northwest through City and County parks, and Annadel State Park where there is a link to the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

## **County of Sonoma**

### **Joe Rodota / West County Rail-to-Trail Extension: Additional Construction**

Location: City Of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County

- Bay Program Funds: \$197,000; Matching Funds: \$81,286

The County of Sonoma's Regional Parks Department is making revisions to the Joe Rodota/West County Regional Trail project. The new project consists of 1) a proposed separate pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Santa Rosa Creek in place of an existing railroad right-of-way bridge, and 2) the construction of 300 feet of trail into downtown Santa Rosa. When construction is completed, this project will add one mile of an eight-foot-wide asphalt bicycle path and a four-foot-wide dirt path to the existing Joe Rodota/West County Regional Trail now partially completed and built almost entirely in an abandoned railroad right-of-way. It will end in downtown Santa Rosa, connect to the City of Santa Rosa's Prince Memorial Greenway, and provide a link from this trail to another leading to the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

## **East Bay Regional Park District**

### **Ridge Trail Planning for Two Alameda County Segments**

Location: Hayward And Fremont, Alameda County

- Bay Program Funds: \$110,000; Matching Funds: \$40,000

The East Bay Regional Park District is currently planning two new sections of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. EBRPD will develop a Land Use Plan and trail circulation plan to develop and open to the public a 4.5 mile segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail across the Vargas Plateau property. The Vargas Plateau has been in land bank status for ten years and the Land Use Plan needs to be complete in order for EBRPD to open the property for public use. It is anticipated that access to the property will be provided from Morrison Canyon Road, which provides access along the southern edge of this property. EBRPD will also develop a Land Use Plan for the Bay Area Ridge trail alignment in the 3,000 acre Garin/Dry Creek Regional Park. This plan will identify an alignment for about 3.5 miles of proposed trail. The plan will analyze environmental issues and regulatory requirements for the new construction required to extend the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

## **Friends of Parks and Recreation**

### **South Windmill Restoration and Interpretive Center**

Location: West end of Golden Gate Park, Great Highway, City and County of San Francisco

- Bay Program Funds: \$750,000; Matching Funds: \$2,700,000

The Friends of Parks and Recreation are preparing engineering reports and restoring the base of the South Windmill to make it seismically secure and to make it possible for the public to visit the windmill interior in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. The North Windmill was restored in the late 1980s and has since been designated a National Historic Landmark. When completed, the South Windmill will be open for public recreation and educational purposes. Restoration of the top of the South Windmill is currently underway by experts in the Netherlands. The two windmills were built in the 1890s and 1900s to irrigate the area of sand dunes that became Golden Gate Park, and are among the largest mechanical windmills in the world. The westerly winds powered the windmills to pump water from the city's west aquifer and provided water needed to create the park.

## Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation

### Laguna de Santa Rosa: Restoration Management Plan

Location: South of the Russian River, in western Sonoma County

- Bay Program Funds: \$225,000; Matching Funds: \$100,000

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is the largest freshwater wetland system in northern California. A complex of creeks, marshes, vernal pools, and ponds, the Laguna provides a key resting and feeding place for migratory birds traveling the Pacific Flyway. As part of the Russian River flood plain, the Laguna acts as a huge reservoir and collection basin for water overflowing the Russian River during flood stage. Today the 21,000-acre Laguna is a patchwork of agricultural, residential and commercial uses amid fragmented chunks of natural open space and publicly protected lands. The Laguna is also threatened by the spread of invasive primrose that is beginning to fill flood channels and alter the Laguna's natural ecological functions. The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation is preparing a Restoration Management Plan that will include development of best management practices and ongoing management strategies for the various habitat types and for agricultural lands in the Laguna. The plan will also include a map identifying the locations of the invasive primrose and a strategy for its control. The RMP will utilize the recently completed Conservancy funded Laguna de Santa Rosa Protection Plan in which the Sonoma Land Trust mapped sensitive habitat types and agricultural lands and targeted priority properties for acquisition from willing sellers. (Also see the Sonoma County Water Agency's Laguna de Santa Rosa: Phase II Sedimentation Study.)

## Literacy for Environmental Justice

### Living Classroom Project: Education and Interpretive Center

Location: Heron's Head Park in Bayview-Hunters Point, City and County of San Francisco

- Bay Program Funds: \$400,000; Matching Funds: \$1,169,306

Literacy for Environmental Justice will construct a greenhouse classroom that is fully powered by solar and wind energy, includes an on-site wastewater treatment system, and utilizes cutting edge sustainable design technologies. The 1,300-square foot building will be located at Heron's Head Park and will provide a base for LEJ's existing stewardship program and for K-12 education programs funded by the Port of San Francisco. The site will also be used for workshops and trainings for the public in alternative energy and design. Heron's Head Park contains a restored wetland with inter-tidal ponds, upland areas with native vegetation, and trails, including a connection to the San Francisco Bay Trail. The park is also home to over 74 species of birds and more than 30 endangered plant species.

## Marin Agricultural Land Trust

### Grossi Ranch Conservation Easement

Project Location: 1.5 miles west of the city of Novato, in western Marin County

- Bay Program Funds: \$585,000  
Matching Funds: \$1,294,800

The Marin Agricultural Land Trust acquired a conservation easement over the 870-acre Grossi Ranch, resulting in permanent preservation of the land's agricultural use and scenic values, and protection of important creeks draining to Stafford Lake. The Grossi family has already completed several resource improvement/protection projects on their property, including creek fencing, road maintenance, weed control, and installation of check dams for sediment collection. MALT and the Grossi family have also worked together to identify "Creek Conservation Areas" on the property. Management of these areas, which will be subject of the conservation easement, will protect water quality as it leaves the property and drains to sensitive waters. The easement acquisition gives rise to many other public benefits, including the preservation of scenic open space, wildlife habitat, and the cultural aspects of the Bay Area's agricultural heritage, and at the same time protecting productive economic uses of private property.





## Muir Heritage Land Trust

### Alhambra Creek Restoration and Environmental Education Collaborative Project

Location: City of Martinez, Contra Costa County

- Bay Program Funds: \$40,000; Matching Funds: \$24,900

Muir Heritage Land Trust will provide an environmental education project to school students that focuses on the protection and restoration of the Alhambra Creek watershed. MHLT has taken the lead in organizing the restoration of Alhambra Creek through a partnership with Martinez Unified School District, Urban Creeks Council, Friends of Alhambra Creek, and the City of Martinez, called the Alhambra Creek Restoration and Environmental Education Collaborative. MHLT also seeks to restore and reduce flooding on four hundred feet of Alhambra Creek in the City of Martinez that has been degraded by erosion and invasive species. Taking advantage of the project's location on the Alternative Education Campus, MHLT has made environmental education a central part of the restoration process. Using a place-based interdisciplinary curriculum consistent with the State's science and other subject content standards, students will learn about riparian ecology, monitor stream function, and participate in the creek restoration project. This environmental education project will serve all of Martinez's high school students, but it specifically targets underserved high school students at the Alternative Education Campus who have not thrived in a traditional classroom environment. This project can offer them community service, internships, and career experience in addition to classroom learning.

### Dutra Ranch Acquisition

Location: Near Martinez, in unincorporated Contra Costa County

- Bay Program Funds: \$600,000  
Matching Funds: \$315,000

The Muir Heritage Land Trust has acquired the 158-acre Dutra Ranch. MHLT plans to continue the current agricultural use of dry land grazing and will also seek to enhance the resources on the property, including the oak woodlands, chaparral, seasonal wetlands, and riparian corridors. This property is part of 660 acres of contiguous open space along the Franklin Ridge, and about one mile of the proposed alignment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail crosses these properties. Because the Dutra Ranch straddles the Franklin Ridge, it includes the headwaters of two watersheds, Alhambra Creek in Martinez and Rodeo Creek into Hercules. The property is also part of an important habitat corridor connecting larger blocks of protected lands owned by the East Bay Regional Park District and the East Bay Municipal Utility District. The mosaic of native vegetation on the Dutra Ranch, including large patches of scrub vegetation, provides suitable habitat for the Alameda whipsnake. A recent study documented California red-legged frog and western pond turtle within the riparian creek corridors on the Dutra Ranch. The property also provides habitat suitable for golden eagle, Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks. Endangered peregrine falcons have been found along the ridgelines and long-eared owls frequent the ravines on the property.



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## Natural Heritage Institute

### Marsh Creek Fish Passage Project

Location: City of Brentwood, Contra Costa County

- Bay Program Funds: \$35,000  
Matching Funds: \$71,000

Natural Heritage Institute will develop engineering plans, prepare environmental documentation, and obtain permits to construct a fish passage project along Marsh Creek. The project will modify an existing grade control dam near a water treatment plant that is a barrier to fish passage. This barrier is a concern because there are Chinook salmon spawning in lower Marsh

Creek and the barrier prevents the fish from accessing approximately seven miles of riparian habitat upstream of the dam along lower Marsh Creek, Deer Creek, and Sand Creek, including approximately three miles of suitable spawning gravels and shaded riparian habitat. Much of the upper watershed is protected land, including Cowell Ranch State Park and East Bay Regional Park District's Morgan Territory Preserve. Marsh Creek enters the Delta between EBRPD's Big Break Regional Shoreline and the Department of Water Resources' Dutch Slough property.

## Peninsula Open Space Trust

### Driscoll Ranch Acquisition

Location: Near the community of La Honda, in coastal San Mateo County

- Bay Program Funds: \$6,000,000  
Matching Funds: \$15,844,000

The Peninsula Open Space Trust Staff will acquire the 1293-acre Wool Ranch, a portion of the 3,681-acre Driscoll Ranch. POST anticipates transfer of the Driscoll Ranch to a local governmental agency for permanent operation and maintenance. Contiguous with the La Honda Open Space Reserve, the Wool Ranch consists of riparian woodlands, steelhead trout streams, evergreen forests, and rolling grasslands. The project protects large portions of three important waterways that provide steelhead trout and Coho salmon habitat and feed into the ecologically rich San Gregorio Creek, a major steelhead-spawning stream. The Ranch's forests and grasslands provide a haven for a variety of wildlife, including rare and endangered species. The project also increases recreational opportunities in the popular Skyline Ridge corridor through trail connections with existing open lands, and provides an excellent opportunity for future connections with the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the Coastal Trail.



## PRBO Conservation Science

### Habitat Conversion Model

Location: San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda Counties

- Bay Program Funds: \$200,000

PRBO Conservation Science (formerly the Point Reyes Bird Observatory) is working to refine and utilize their already created Habitat Conversion Model. The enhanced model will be used as a decision support tool to evaluate and improve restoration alternatives for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and other salt pond restoration throughout San Francisco Bay. The information produced by the model will enable the Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Game to design and implement the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project to minimize negative impacts and maximize benefits for birds. Other restoration projects throughout the Bay Area can also benefit from the information generated. The project is particularly timely, since the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project will begin formulating and evaluating restoration alternatives in 2004. Many species of birds use the salt ponds, in particular threatened western snowy plovers and endangered least terns, along with resident and migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, such as western and sandpipers, and other waterbirds such as white pelicans, while tidal marshes provide habitat for the endangered California clapper rail, song sparrows, and migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. The restoration project will need to provide a mix of habitats to benefit a wide variety of birds.

## San Francisco Estuary Institute

### Rapid Assessment for Exotic Organisms in San Francisco Bay

Location: San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Napa, Sonoma, Marin Counties

- Bay Program Funds: \$25,750; Matching Funds: \$40,000

San Francisco Estuary Institute will undertake a rapid assessment survey of exotic organisms in various habitats in San Francisco Bay, where introduced species are expected to be abundant. The survey will be performed by collaboration among scientists from approximately ten scientific institutions and government agencies. Impacts from introduced



species in the Bay include the dramatic alteration of species composition; reduction of native populations through competition, predation or other effects; impacts on fisheries; interference with the restoration of native populations and habitats; fouling of boats, waterways, and water supply systems; and other economic impacts. The rapid assessment project will address the problem of introduced species in the Bay by assessing the extent of invasion in the Bay; detecting newly-arrived exotic species; improving understanding of how populations of exotic organisms multiply and spread through the Bay; and increasing public and policymaker awareness of introduced organisms.

## San Francisquito Watershed Council

### San Francisquito Creek Watershed Steelhead Recovery

Location: East Palo Alto, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside, and Portola Valley, in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties

- Bay Program Funds: \$25,000  
Additional Conservancy Funds: \$208,000  
Matching Funds: \$92,500

The San Francisquito Watershed Council will be designing modifications to six fish barriers, removing invasive exotic plants from selected sites, and producing materials for watershed stewardship in the San Francisquito Creek Watershed.

This project will result in significant progress toward elimination of remaining impediments to full steelhead passage in this key South Bay watershed, which is home to one of the only continuous native runs of federally listed steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in San Francisco Bay. The San Francisquito Creek Watershed covers approximately 43 square miles, and includes three major tributaries: Los Trancos, Corte Madera, and Bear Creeks — all of which support steelhead trout or, upstream of Searsville Dam, rainbow trout. The vast majority of the watershed is privately owned, encompassing seven municipalities.



## Solano Land Trust

### Eastern Swett Ranch Acquisition

Location: East of the City of Vallejo, Solano County

- Bay Program Funds: \$575,000  
Matching Funds: \$1,575,000

The Solano Land Trust will be acquiring the 1,408-acre Eastern Swett Ranch. This purchase will protect wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, and scenic open space, and will provide opportunities for compatible public recreation. This acquisition will be the second of three planned purchases from PG&E: the first was the 1,575-acre King Ranch purchased by SLT in 2002, and the last will be the 905-acre Vallejo Swett Ranch, which will be sold at a substantial discount if the King and Eastern Swett Ranches are

purchased first. The three ranches together comprise approximately 3,888 acres. The Eastern Swett Ranch provides habitat for the federally threatened California red-legged frog. Contiguous with the 1,575-acre King Ranch, the two properties will be managed together for resource protection and enhancement, public outdoor recreation and education, and grazing in non-sensitive habitat areas.

## Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

### Montini Acquisition

Location: On the northern boundary of the City of Sonoma, in southern Sonoma County

- Bay Program Funds: \$1,250,000; Matching Funds: \$12,350,000

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District will acquire a 63-acre portion of the 152-acre Montini property. The property consists of a predominantly oak-covered hillside that serves as a visually significant

backdrop to the City of Sonoma's vibrant downtown Plaza. This acquisition will protect the scenic backdrop to the City of Sonoma, provide an expansion of existing adjacent recreational opportunities, and preserve one of the few remaining agricultural properties in Sonoma Valley. The Montini property is also under threat of development, and if not purchased by the District, the Montini family will likely sell to another buyer for residential or resort development. The property is comprised of moderately steep slopes rising north from the adjoining Sonoma State Historic Park. It rises to 500 feet on this adjoining property that is proposed for acquisition of fee title, and 700 feet at the northern boundary of the parcel proposed for purchase of a Conservation Easement. This acquisition will enhance the experience for the more than 65,000 park visitors per year by providing an expansion of the existing State Park and city trails. A little over half the property is open grassland and the remainder is covered in oak woodland with large rock outcroppings scattered throughout. Views of San Francisco and San Pablo Bay can be experienced from various locations on this hillside parcel.



## Sonoma County Water Agency

### Laguna de Santa Rosa: Phase II Sedimentation Study

Location: South of the Russian River, in western Sonoma County

- Bay Program Funds: \$225,000; Matching Funds: \$3,188,000

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is the largest freshwater wetland system in northern California. A complex of creeks, marshes, vernal pools, and ponds, the Laguna provides a key resting and feeding place for migratory birds traveling the Pacific Flyway. As part of the Russian River flood plain, the Laguna acts as a huge reservoir and collection basin for water overflowing the Russian River during flood stage. The Sonoma County Water Agency will be implementing Phase II of the Laguna de Santa Rosa Sedimentation Study, including the assessment for and preparation of detailed designs for one or more projects on publicly owned land that will reduce effects of sedimentation for habitat restoration and flood control. This study will additionally include preparation of the environmental documentation for the chosen projects. Phase II follows the nearly completed Phase I of this study which determined that siltation has impacted the ability of the Laguna to provide wildlife habitat and to act as a flood control basin. (Also see the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation's Restoration Management Plan.)

## Sonoma Land Trust

### San Pablo Baylands Restoration Program

Location: The former tidal and seasonal wetlands and adjacent uplands of San Pablo Bay, including portions of Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, and Contra Costa Counties

- Bay Program Funds: \$240,000; Matching Funds: \$955,547

The Sonoma Land Trust will carry out technical analysis necessary for acquisition and restoration of key San Pablo Baylands sites. Additionally, SLT will conduct feasibility analysis of projects for inclusion in the Army Corps of Engineers' San Pablo Bay Watershed Restoration Program or other restoration programs. Recently, SLT entered into a purchase agreement to acquire Dickson Ranch and signed an option agreement on the New North Point property in southern Sonoma County. These unique properties are top acquisition priorities for the Department of Fish and Game, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, and SLT, and will create a large contiguous block of historic wetland habitat between the upper Petaluma River and Tolay Creek. SLT is now looking to: 1) finalize acquisition related activities for the Dickson Ranch and New North Point properties; 2) develop conceptual restoration plans for the two properties; 3) conduct public outreach, prepare educational packets, and develop a fundraising strategy including convening a task force and implementing a community outreach strategy; 4) develop a written regional acquisition and restoration strategy; and 5) conduct fundraising activities related to acquisition and restoration of the Dickson and New North Point properties, including development of grant applications and grant contracts.

## Sonoma Baylands Public Access

Location: Immediately adjacent to the Port Sonoma Marina and south of Highway 37, at the mouth of the Petaluma River, Sonoma County

- Bay Program Funds: \$500,000

The Sonoma Land Trust is constructing public access improvements at the restored tidal Sonoma Baylands Project site. The site is a 322-acre restored wetlands constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers in the early 1990s. SLT, which acquired the site and surrounding lands for wetland restoration and agricultural preservation prior to the Corps project and has subsequently managed it with Conservancy assistance, is now carrying out design and construction of the trail for the site, and to manage it for public use. In what is

envisioned as the final phase of work at the site, SLT will design and construct trail improvements including a parking area, railroad crossing, boardwalk or solid fill walkway, ramp, and ADA-compliant surface on the levee top. The site also includes 11,000 feet of flood control levee, atop which is a one-lane service road. The levee top will function as the public trail, as the existing crown is wide enough for a two-lane road. Additionally, appropriate fencing and interpretive signage will be installed along the trail to inform the public about the resources to be protected. The project will provide benefit to the public by allowing access to the wetland in all seasons. Trail use will be limited to walking and other non-motorized vehicles.



## University of California Natural Reserve System

### McLaughlin Reserve Acquisition

Location: Adjacent to the U.C. McLaughlin Natural Reserve lands and contiguous with the Bureau of Land Management's Cache Creek Natural Area Bureau of Land Management's Knoxville Recreation Area, Napa County

- Bay Program Funds: \$150,000; Matching Funds: \$15,000

The University of California Natural Reserve System is acquiring the 40-acre Aikawa and 35-acre Escobido properties to be incorporated into the existing McLaughlin Reserve. These properties are important to the Reserve because of their outstanding geological and biological diversity. They are composed of a mixture of serpentine and non-serpentine habitats and lie within an area that forms an ownership gap between two sides of the Reserve. Acquisition of the properties will aid in the management of the Reserve by allowing for control or eradication of invasive species at a watershed scale. The purchase of these two properties will help UCNRS in a larger effort to close an ownership gap the between sides of the McLaughlin Reserve. The outcome of this effort, which consists of a combination of land acquisitions and cooperative agreements with the Bureau of Land Management, will be the establishment of a contiguous land area exceeding 8,500 acres that is managed in a way consistent with the UCNRS mission. This proposed Reserve expansion will facilitate research by providing better opportunities for landscape scale studies and will facilitate education and public outreach by allowing the development of extensive routes for guided interpretive hikes.



## **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS FUNDED WITH ADDITIONAL COASTAL CONSERVANCY FUNDS (FY 2003–2004)**

### **Association of Bay Area Governments**

Note: Additional Conservancy funding for these four projects is from ABAG's Bay Trail Block Grants previously authorized in September 1999 and December 2000. Funds listed are those disbursed this year.

#### **Cerrito Creek Connector Trail**

Location: Between the Ohlone Greenway and Creekside Park in El Cerrito, Contra Costa County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$191,358; Matching Funds: \$248,791

The City of El Cerrito will construct nearly one mile of trail along Cerrito Creek and the adjacent neighborhood. The proposed Cerrito Creek Connector Trail will implement a 4,600-foot bicycle/pedestrian route between the Ohlone Greenway, a regional trail, and the city's western boundary. Pedestrian improvements are proposed for the northern side of Cerrito Creek, and bike lanes will be striped on city streets in the safest feasible route through the busy commercial area. The Cerrito Creek Connector Trail will ultimately reach the Bay Trail; however, this project is only a portion of that total alignment.

#### **Martinez Connector Trail**

Location: Martinez Shoreline Park, Contra Costa County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$265,000

The City of Martinez will construct 2,350 linear feet of trail to connect the Nejedly Staging Area at Carquinez Scenic Drive with the main entrance to Martinez Regional Shoreline Park. This segment of trail will connect a major trail link with a popular destination point, and will run on property owned by East Bay Regional Park District, the City of Martinez, Union Pacific Railroad, and private residential owners. Because the trail construction will of necessity require filling approximately 12,789 square feet of wetland, the project includes restoration of over 30,000 square feet of tidal wetlands in the immediate vicinity of the project. The required mitigation will occur on EBRPD property, with EBRPD acting as lead to obtain the necessary permits and approvals from San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **Mission Creek Bikeway**

Location: Mission District, City and County of San Francisco

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$50,000; Matching Funds: \$135,000

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy will conduct a planning and feasibility analysis of the Mission Creek Bikeway, which will provide a key connection to the Bay Trail for residents of the densely populated Mission District of San Francisco. A recently completed conceptual plan identified a potential trail alignment along an abandoned railroad corridor parallel to Mission Creek, which now flows underground. The plan also identified opportunities for interpreting the natural history of Mission Creek as part of the trail design. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy will now undertake more detailed planning for the trail, including preparing a preliminary design for the corridor, developing a phasing plan for right-of-way acquisition and construction, creating a funding strategy, and securing easement commitments from adjacent land owners.

#### **Trestle Glen Boulevard Pathway**

Location: Tiburon, Marin County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$205,700; Matching Funds: \$248,791

The Town of Tiburon will construct pedestrian improvements along Trestle Glen Boulevard which is currently unimproved for either pedestrian or bicycle use, although it is a designated alignment of the Bay Trail. The improvements will extend along approximately one-half mile of Trestle Glen Boulevard and will provide a pedestrian pathway on the north side of the road. Trestle Glen Boulevard is narrow and windy and hazardous for pedestrians and bicyclists who would otherwise use this direct route to reach the eastern shoreline of the Tiburon peninsula.

## **Bay Area Open Space Council**

### **Central Coast Regional Collaboration**

Location: Central Coast Counties from San Mateo through Ventura

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$75,000; Matching Funds: \$124,500

The Bay Area Open Space Council will undertake feasibility and planning efforts in the Central Coast to develop a regional vision and map for land conservation with local and regional organizations. Currently, there is no regular or formal opportunity for land conservation organizations throughout the Central Coast to communicate with one another, address regional issues, or meet their training needs. Central Coast land trusts have requested assistance to: 1) build awareness of conservation needs throughout the region and the individual activities of participating land trusts; 2) articulate a regional vision and goals for land conservation along the Central Coast; 3) identify and address regional needs; 4) increase peer learning, information exchange, and training opportunities; 5) increase partnerships between organizations; and 6) develop regional initiatives. This project will facilitate collaboration of Central Coast land conservation organizations to develop a regional vision and goals for conservation efforts, create a GIS database of protected lands, hold training workshops to increase technical expertise, and organize quarterly meetings to increase communication and coordination.

### **San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Goals**

Location: San Francisco Bay Area Counties

- Matching Funds: \$49,000; Note: \$16,500 of matching funds are through a grant from the Resources Agency.

The Bay Area Open Space Council will prepare a feasibility study, including a detailed scope of work and budget, for an upland habitat goals analysis for the San Francisco Bay Area. This analysis will lead to the development of an upland habitat goals report, similar to the widely used Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Report written for the wetland areas around San Francisco Bay. The analysis will focus on the identification and characterization of core habitat areas and critical habitat linkages between them and will complement the Habitat Goals report by addressing areas not included in that report but clearly relevant to it. BAOOSC will work with an advisory committee to conduct background research on existing information, gather ideas on key issues, develop a draft scope of work and budget for the report, and identify methodologies for identifying specific goals.

## **California Department of Parks and Recreation**

### **Willow Creek Acquisition**

Location: Between the towns of Jenner and Occidental, in western Sonoma County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$4,187,000; Matching Funds: \$16,373,000

The California Department of Parks and Recreation will acquire 3,373 acres of forested land, known as the Willow Creek property, for the purpose of protecting and enhancing sensitive habitats and providing public access in the southern Russian River watershed. The property adjoins Sonoma State Beach, which is the fourth most visited park within the State Park system, and will be included in the park after acquisition. Other public lands also border the property, providing a protected conservation area of over 13,500 acres. Approximately three miles of fish-bearing creeks would be preserved, providing habitat for several endangered fish species. Extensive redwood/Douglas fir forest cover the property, offering habitat for the northern spotted owl, as well as osprey, river otter, bobcat and mountain lion among many other animal species. In addition to habitat protection and restoration opportunities, the property will provide many miles of a loop trail that will connect with the coastal trail along Sonoma State Beach, and other trails in the area, offering expansive views of the Pacific and the Russian River.

## **California State Coastal Conservancy**

### **Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project**

Location: Novato, Marin County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$900,000

Note: The Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project was previously authorized at \$13.8 million. State funding is based on a total project cost of \$55.8 million.

The Conservancy Board certified the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project Subsequent Environmental Impact Report and accepted title to 630 acres of the Hamilton Airfield Parcel through a transfer from the Department of the Army.



Hamilton Army Airfield, a portion of the former Hamilton Air Force Base, is located along the western edge of San Pablo Bay, Marin County. Most of the airfield lies in an area that was historically salt marsh. A future phase of the project may involve the Conservancy's 1,600-acre Bel Marin Keys Unit V property, which would expand the restoration project to a total of almost 2,500 acres.

## South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Planning

Location: San Francisco Bay, south of the San Mateo Bridge, in Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo Counties

- Matching Funds: \$11,000,000  
Note: \$3,000,000 of matching funds are through a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board.

The Conservancy is facilitating the long-term restoration planning for 15,100 acres of former commercial salt ponds in South San Francisco Bay, in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Conservancy, FWS, and DFG are working with consultants, nongovernmental organizations, universities, and public agencies to conduct data collection and technical studies, formulate alternatives, prepare environmental documents, estimate the costs of restoration, identify potential sources of funding, develop an implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management plan, and obtain all necessary permits for the first phase of restoration. In addition, the Conservancy, DFG, and FWS, are conducting an extensive collaborative planning process, engaging trustee and regulatory agencies, scientists, local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the public in order to ensure the proposed project is widely supported and scientifically-sound.



## California Wildlife Conservation Board

### Stanly Ranch Wetland Acquisition

Location: Adjacent to the Napa River and immediately downstream of the State Highway 29 Bridge

- Matching Funds: \$1,500,500  
Note: \$152,000 of Matching Funds is through a settlement between the Regional Water Quality Control Board and one of its dischargers.

The California Wildlife Conservation Board will acquire 242 acres of the Stanly Ranch property adjacent to the Napa River. Stanly Ranch refers to approximately 1,000 acres of historic tidal wetland and adjacent upland within the City of Napa, and the owner has agreed to sell 242 acres of wetland to WCB, and also sell a conservation easement over an additional 17 acres. The property encompasses wetlands and historic tidal wetlands along the Napa River south of the bridge for State Highway 29. Today, some of the property functions as seasonal and permanent wetland, a portion of the property is currently grazed pasture, and much of it is planted as vineyard. The site has tremendous potential for restoration to native marshland habitat once water circulation is restored. The property is contiguous with more than 600 acres of wetlands to the north, which have been acquired and enhanced as part of the Napa River Flood Protection Project. When restored, this property is expected to provide habitat for the federally listed salt marsh harvest mouse, the California clapper rail and many other species.



## Center for Collaborative Policy

### South Bay Salt Ponds: Facilitation and Public Outreach

Location: San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda Counties

- Matching Funds: \$400,000; Note: Matching funds are through a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board.

The Center for Collaborative Policy (at California State University Sacramento) will lead public outreach and stakeholder involvement efforts for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. The project includes a very large number of stakeholders, engaged in a variety of advisory and decision-making efforts, and each aspect will require strategically determined steps to provide opportunities for stakeholder involvement while maintaining the authorities and missions of the Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game. The Center has recently completed a Stakeholder Assessment, consisting of interviews with nearly 70 individuals who have a stake in the project. The Assessment Report includes recommendations for improving the organizational structure and effectively engaging a wide range of stakeholders in project planning and development. The Project Management Team has selected approximately 30 individuals representing local businesses, community advocacy groups, environmental groups, public access/recreation groups, infrastructure organizations, local elected officials, and public health/public works agencies to make up the Stakeholder Forum. This Stakeholder Forum is the major venue for publicly-derived advice and recommendations to come to the Project Management Team and meets on a regular basis. In addition, Work Groups on such topics as habitat, flood management, and public access meet frequently to provide more detailed feedback to the agencies.

## City of Pacifica

### San Pedro Creek Watershed Enhancement: Capistrano Bridge Fish Passage Improvements

Location: City Of Pacifica, San Mateo County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$545,000; Matching Funds: \$880,000

The City of Pacifica will implement a series of habitat enhancements to the middle corridor of San Pedro Creek as part of an ongoing effort to restore and enhance the San Pedro Creek Watershed within the city limits. This project will remove a failed fish ladder from beneath Capistrano Bridge and replace it with a series of step pools that gradually rise in elevation. Additionally, 669 feet of concrete box channel and other debris would be removed from the streambed and the area will be restored using native vegetation. City staff and members of the San Pedro Creek Watershed Coalition have been carefully monitoring the steelhead population in San Pedro Creek for the past several years, and have counted thousands of juveniles and nearly 300 adult fish in the stream during the spring run. The National Marine Fisheries Service has designated San Pedro Creek as one of nine critical habitat areas for steelhead within the “Central California Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit.” The San Pedro Creek riparian corridor is an important resource for other wildlife as well, providing excellent habitat for belted kingfisher, black-crowned night heron, green-backed heron, and snowy egret. The creek also provides habitat for populations of two federally listed endangered species: the San Francisco garter snake and the California red-legged frog.

### San Pedro Creek Watershed Enhancement Plan: Phase I Implementation

Location: Lower reach of San Pedro Creek in the City of Pacifica, in northern San Mateo County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$750,000; Matching Funds: \$1,150,000

The City of Pacifica will implement a series of enhancements to the lower corridor and the mouth of San Pedro Creek as the first phase of an ongoing effort to restore and enhance the San Pedro Creek Watershed within the City limits. The project will result in the enhancement of tidal wetlands at the creek mouth on Pacifica State Beach, the restoration of the historic brackish estuary just upstream from the mouth, and the restoration and enhancement of approximately three acres of riparian wetlands and stream banks east of Highway 1. The restoration of San Pedro Creek is especially important because it is one of the few coastal streams in San Mateo County that supports a native population of steelhead. The San Pedro Creek riparian corridor is an important resource for other wildlife as well, providing excellent habitat for belted kingfisher, black-crowned night heron, green-backed heron, and snowy egret. The creek also provides habitat for populations of two federally listed endangered species: the San Francisco garter snake and the California red-legged frog. All of the above species require wetland or aquatic habitat for all or a portion of their life cycle and would benefit from the restoration of the wetlands and riparian zones of San Pedro Creek.

## City of Richmond

### Richmond Scenic Overlooks

Location: City of Richmond, Contra Costa County

- Matching Funds: \$45,000

Note: Matching funds are through a grant from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

The City of Richmond will construct pedestrian overlooks and beach access at four points along the Point Richmond shoreline. In October 2002, the Conservancy authorized a grant to the City to carry out the overlook project, with the understanding that the Bay Conservation and Development Commission would be providing matching funds. Due to a restriction in BCD's ability to award project funds directly, the Conservancy has been asked to administer funds on their behalf. This project will remove encroachments, trim overgrown shrubs, and install fencing, benches, and native plant landscaping in order to allow the public to enjoy sweeping views of San Francisco Bay. In addition, an existing informal path leading to a small cove beach would be improved.

## Contra Costa Resource Conservation District

### Marsh Creek Stewardship Program

Location: Near Big Break Regional Shoreline and Dutch Slough, in eastern Contra Costa County

- Matching Funds: \$70,000

Note: Matching funds are through a grant from the California Bay-Delta Authority.

The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District will implement agency coordination and public outreach components of the Marsh Creek watershed outreach program. The RCD will lead the coordination with local government agencies including the County, Cities, and the Contra Costa Watershed Forum, and will organize stewardship activities, including trash clean-up, removal of exotic species, and replanting of native riparian vegetation along the creek. The RCD will also install watershed signs and will help support development of other public outreach materials. These efforts will complement the Dutch Slough Restoration Project and two riparian restoration projects already underway on Marsh Creek. (Also see the description for the Delta Science Center's Marsh Creek Stewardship Program.)

## County of Sonoma

### Sea Ranch Bluff Top Trail Repair Feasibility Study

Location: Sea Ranch, Sonoma County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$40,000  
Matching Funds: \$10,000

In the summer of 2003, a section of the Bluff Top public trail at the Sea Ranch in Sonoma County collapsed and was closed by the County for public safety reasons. The trail closure blocks the public's only access to one of the most scenic beaches in the area, receiving 154,000 visitors annually, including Sea Ranch residents, guests, and the general public.

The County of Sonoma will conduct a geotechnical investigation and engineering feasibility study to assess the feasibility of constructing a new bridge or stairway for the eroded portion of the trail. In addition, the County will also conduct studies on other sections of the Bluff Top Trail that may also be susceptible to collapse. The trail is located on the edge of an approximately 25-foot high bluff seaward of the Sea Ranch housing development and the ocean bluff is eroding significantly in several areas. The Conservancy originally provided grant funds for the development of the public access easements, including trail work, bridges, and stairs, and these improvements were substantially completed in 1987.





## Delta Science Center

### Marsh Creek Stewardship Program

Location: Near Big Break Regional Shoreline and Dutch Slough, in eastern Contra Costa County

- Matching Funds: \$60,000; Note: Matching funds are through a grant from the California Bay-Delta Authority.

The Delta Science Center will implement the educational components of Marsh Creek watershed outreach program, such as working with local schools, leading outings, and developing Marsh Creek specific educational materials. DSC is a nonprofit organization that is a collaborative effort of the Los Medanos Community College District, California State University at Hayward, East Contra Costa County Schools, Contra Costa County, East Bay Regional Park District, and many others. These efforts will complement the Dutch Slough Restoration Project and two riparian restoration projects already underway on Marsh Creek. (Also see the description for the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District's Marsh Creek Stewardship Program.)



## East Bay Regional Park District

### Gleason Property Acquisition

Location: Near the Cities of Walnut Creek and Lafayette, adjacent to Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, in unincorporated central Contra Costa County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$2,200,000  
Matching Funds: \$1,708,000

The East Bay Regional Park District will acquire the 673-acre Gleason property, which is characterized by rolling grasslands and densely wooded slopes with panoramic views of Mt. Diablo and its foothills. The property ridgeline dominates the viewshed of the surrounding urban areas of Walnut Creek, Lafayette, and Moraga, as well as the heavily used Interstate 680

transportation corridor. The acquisition will preserve the area's most prominent ridgeline, protect wildlife corridors, preserve open space, allow continued agricultural use of the land, and expand recreational opportunities already established at EBRPD's adjacent Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, increasing the park's acreage to almost 5,000 acres. EBRPD is also pursuing acquisition of the 270-acre Hansen property to the east, and if successful the local trail system will be greatly increased. Even without the Hansen property, the Gleason property will provide an important link in the Las Trampas to Briones Regional Trail, a segment of the Calaveras Ridge Trail, and will offer approximately one mile of its own trails along the dirt roads already present on the property.

## Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy

### Golden Gate National Parks Coastal Trail Signage

Location: Seventeen miles of the Coastal Trail alignment between Muir Beach and the Cliff House, in Marin and San Francisco counties

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$518,500; Matching Funds: \$1,829,733

The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy will design and install a comprehensive trail signage system through Golden Gate National Park properties in San Francisco and Marin Counties along the Coastal Trail alignment. GGNPC, in direct cooperation with the Golden Gate National Parks and the Presidio Trust of San Francisco, will complete a comprehensive inventory, re-design and installation of new wayfinding, safety, regulatory, mapping, educational, interpretive and informational signage along this trail segment. The California Coastal Trail provides an unsurpassed public right-of-way

for this remarkable coastline. But without a complete signage system, the California Coastal Trail is not truly accessible for any but experienced users. At none of the 30-plus access points along this 17-mile section are there signs identifying routes, exits, distances, or difficulty. Additionally, valuable opportunities to make a deeper connection with visitors through learning and stewardship are being lost as a result of inadequate or non-existent education and interpretive signage.

## Mori Point Coastal Trail Planning

Location: Mori Point in the City of Pacifica, San Mateo County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$74,000; Matching Funds: \$107,100

The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy will conduct trail planning and site assessment for the 110-acre Mori Point property, owned by the U.S. National Park Service as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The GGNPC will identify the optimal alignment for the California Coastal Trail across the site and to prepare plans and construction documents necessary for development of the trail. This planning effort will also identify secondary trails linking Mori Point to local communities and formulate measures to protect, restore, and enhance sensitive habitats and their species at Mori Point. The City of Pacifica has completed construction of the Coastal Trail south from Mori Point, and potential exists for the development of a section of the Coastal Trail across property owned by the City of San Francisco immediately to the north of Mori Point. Completion of the Coastal Trail across these two properties would result in an uninterrupted north-south route along the entire Pacifica coastline.

## Harmony Union School District

### Salmon Creek Green School

Location: Salmon Creek watershed, Occidental, Sonoma County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$300,000; Matching Funds: \$90,300

Harmony Union School District will design and construct facilities and habitat enhancement projects in relation to its green school program at its Salmon Creek School, including a native plant nursery, an outdoor classroom, a creek observation deck for classroom purposes, a trail feasibility study, public access and trail improvements, and the enhancement of several natural areas located on campus. This project will lead to an increase in the number of pupils studying environmental education on the site from 420 per year to approximately 1,500–1,800 students per year. At present, the existing environmental program serves the immediate school population and provides a “mother” school garden for plant propagation, a recycling program, worm bins, compost for the school site, an annual harvest celebration, and, a yearly plant sale. The project and facilities would continue to serve the existing K-8 local and county school population, but with the proposed improvements high school students, college students, and nonprofit organizations could utilize the campus and surrounding natural areas.

## Marin Agricultural Land Trust

### Giacomini Ranch Conservation Easement

Location: Eastern side of Tomales Bay, in western Marin County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$750,000  
Matching Funds: \$1,180,000

Marin Agricultural Land Trust will acquire an agricultural conservation easement over the 714-acre Giacomini Ranch. The property has been used for dairy ranching for 41 years and there is a full-scale cheese manufacturing plant on site. In recent years similar sized agriculture properties on the east shore of Tomales Bay have been sold out of agricultural production into estate development. The purchase of

the conservation easement over the Giacomini Ranch will accomplish many goals: a longtime rancher will be able to maintain his business and continue to operate in an area that is highly threatened for conversion to estates; the aesthetic scenic value of western Marin along the shore of Tomales Bay will be preserved; and the natural resources and water quality of Tomales Bay will be protected from increased runoff from development. The easement would prohibit recreational off-road vehicle riding; restrict tree harvesting or removal except for use as firewood for onsite heating





and to remove diseased trees for safety reasons; generally prohibit dumping of wastes, refuse, or debris, except organic matter for agricultural uses; bar practices that cause soil degradation or reduced water quality; restrict surface alteration or excavation; and prohibit permanent separation of water rights from the property. In addition, the watercourses located on the property will be protected from impacts by placing further limits on the use of those areas.

## **Marin Audubon Society**

### **Petaluma Marsh Restoration Expansion**

Location: Lower Petaluma River on San Antonio Creek, a tidal slough, adjacent to the Redwood Landfill and east of Highway 101, Marin County

- Matching Funds: \$1,912,280; Note: \$339,000 of matching funds are through a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board, and \$1,320,301 of matching funds are through a grant from CalTrans.

The Marin Audubon Society will be restoring the Petaluma River Marsh Expansion site. Fifty acres of the project serve as mitigation for the widening of Highway 37 over Tolay Creek, which was carried out by Caltrans in the mid-1990s. Marin Audubon has begun construction of the project. A 102-acre portion of the 180-acre site was diked off from tidal action in the 1960s and will be restored to tidal habitat by breaching the levee to San Antonio Creek, a tidal slough. A new flood control levee will need to be constructed along the western boundary of the site to protect an existing railroad right-of-way from tidal waters. After the project is complete, ownership of the site will be transferred to Department of Fish and Game for permanent management and inclusion into the adjacent Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Management Area.

### **Triangle Marsh Restoration**

Location: Town of Corte Madera, Marin County

- Matching Funds: \$285,000; Note: \$90,000 of matching funds are through a grant from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

Marin Audubon Society will restore and expand an existing tidal marsh and transition area at Triangle Marsh. This project implements a longtime goal of the restoration planned by MAS and the Marin County Open Space District. When completed, Triangle Marsh will provide a wildlife corridor between the Ring Mountain Nature area and San Francisco Bay. The restoration project will remove 10,700 cubic yards of fill so that site elevations over approximately two acres will be about one foot lower than the normal tidal elevation in the vicinity, and over three to five years the tidal marsh will restore naturally. Additionally, MAS will construct a small earthen viewing area as a point for public access. This upland area is designed to also discourage access into the marsh habitat areas. When completed this project will implement part of the Bay Plan and one of the restoration goals outlined in the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals report

## **Marin Resource Conservation District**

### **Tomales Bay Watershed Enhancement Program**

Location: Western Marin County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$600,000; Matching Funds: \$602,000

The Marin Resource Conservation District will implement at least 12 enhancement projects over the next five years in the Tomales Bay watershed. Enhancement projects will take place on both public and private lands, with the primary purpose to improve aquatic, salmonid, and riparian habitat in the Walker and Lagunitas Creek sub-watersheds that flow directly into Tomales Bay. The Conservancy-funded Tomales Bay Watershed Stewardship Plan will guide the overarching preservation and conservation efforts within the watershed. Projects in the Walker Creek sub-watershed will focus on riparian fencing and revegetation and streambank stabilization measures. Two endangered salmonids, Coho salmon and steelhead trout, utilize the Lagunitas Creek sub-watershed, as does the endangered freshwater shrimp, and implementation in this watershed will focus on fisheries improvement and streambank protection practices. Tomales Bay, Lagunitas Creek, and Walker Creeks are all listed as impaired water bodies by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, and these projects should help remedy this situation.

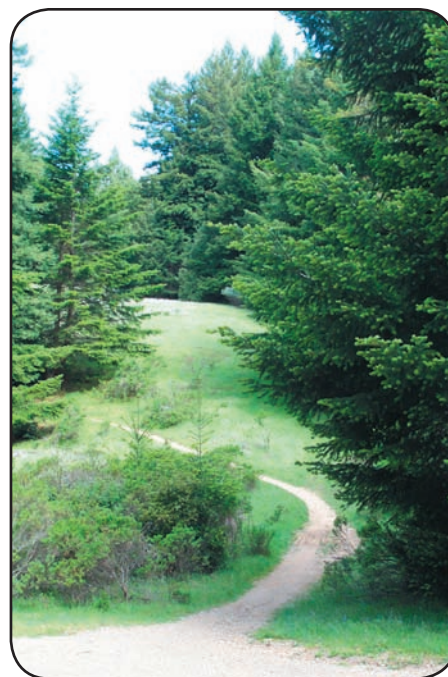
## Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

### El Corte de Madera Staging Area and Ridge Trail Planning Project

Location: Unincorporated San Mateo County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$31,000; Matching Funds: \$31,000

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District will plan and design a regional staging area and a new 1.25 mile multiple-use trail at El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve. This trail would connect to the Bay Area Ridge Trail / Skyline Trail and then continue south along the prominent eastern ridge of the Preserve. There is currently no formal parking area and a well-designed parking facility would provide a central area to disseminate information about the preserve and other public lands in the area, as well as provide restroom facilities. Equestrians in particular would greatly benefit from having areas dedicated to their trailers. The new 1.25 mile multiple-use trail would originate in the staging area and would connect to many of the existing trails within the Preserve. The trail would create opportunities for a number of additional short and intermediate-distance loops within the Preserve and would help reduce conflicts between trail users. Its location would offer sweeping views of the rugged Lawrence Creek canyon, and would serve as an excellent self-guided interpretive trail to highlight the Preserve's remarkable natural resources and its regional significance within the San Gregorio Creek Watershed.



## Natural Heritage Institute

### Marsh Creek Stewardship Program

Location: Eastern Contra Costa County

- Matching Funds: \$114,000; Note: Matching funds are through a grant from the California Bay-Delta Authority.

The Natural Heritage Institute will implement a public outreach program and conduct restoration planning for the Marsh Creek watershed. The goal of the outreach program is to educate the public about the watershed, to increase local support for environmental protection, and to create opportunities for the public to participate in watershed stewardship activities. The program will include: water quality monitoring done in coordination with local high schools and a countywide volunteer monitoring program; environmental stewardship activities, such as removing trash from the creek and planting native plants along the trail; a public education program; and technical support to city planning staff to help implement the riparian corridor plan in Brentwood. This project will build on work initiated by NHI, the Delta Science Center, the Resource Conservation District, the County, and others. As restoration projects are implemented along the creek and at its mouth, this program will develop a structure to organize local volunteers and create opportunities for the community to get involved in these projects. This program will also complement the Dutch Slough Restoration Project and two riparian restoration projects already underway on Marsh Creek.

## Occidental Arts and Ecology Center

### Salmon Creek Estuary Enhancement Plan

Location: Salmon Creek Estuary, in southwestern Sonoma County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$300,000; Matching Funds: \$257,000

The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center will prepare an enhancement plan with implementation recommendations for the Salmon Creek estuary. In order to prepare the enhancement plan, OAEC will first compile a history of the Salmon Creek estuary that will be compiled into a report for project and archival use, and will be made available for general distribution. Next, OAEC will measure the extent of sandbars and their elevation and the changes they undergo throughout the year. Monitoring of water quality, rate of flow, and nutrient levels will also be conducted at numerous locations during the development of the plan to assess habitat quality. Another major portion of the work will be the assessment of upstream watershed and channel conditions that directly contribute to salmon and steelhead existence and restoration in the estuary. OAEC will then develop a series of enhancement recommendations to improve estuary habitat quality and conduct several public meetings to present the plan and its goals to the public and other public agencies.

## Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge

### Año Nuevo Island Habitat Restoration

Location: Año Nuevo State Reserve, San Mateo County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$88,000  
Matching Funds: \$597,844

Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge, a nonprofit conservation organization, will carry out habitat restoration at Año Nuevo Island, within Año Nuevo State Reserve. The project is intended to protect one of California's three principal colonies of rhinoceros auklets. Oikonos, has been working with the PRBO Conservation Science to reduce severe erosion that threatens Año Nuevo Island's seabird colonies, particularly its rhinoceros auklets, which nest in burrows underground. Over the past decade the island has been denuded of vegetation, resulting in rapid loss of topsoil and causing large-scale collapse of the auklets' underground burrows. Oikonos will undertake three years of intensive restoration on the island's central marine terrace, the main habitat for auklets, where a layer of good topsoil remains. The restoration work will entail planting dense concentrations of mature specimens of saltgrass and other native plants that can withstand the harsh island conditions. Following the restoration work, Oikonos will carry out three years of monitoring studies and adaptive maintenance to ensure the project's success. Additionally, educational materials and exhibits will be prepared pertaining to marine birds and other aspects of the island ecosystem for use in the state reserve's interpretive center and docent program.



Source: Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge



Source: Robert Bueleman

corridor, and comprises most of the viewshed immediately surrounding the highly scenic Pigeon Point Light Station Historic State Park. Since the early 1950s, Bolsa Point Ranches was under the ownership and management of a prominent coastal farming family, who actively pursued the permitting process for subdivision and development. By the time POST was able to successfully option the property, Bolsa Point Ranches had 51 legal lots that, if developed, would have severely compromised the integrity of the ranch's natural resources, and would likely have led to the demise of its agricultural operations.

### Pillar Point Bluff Acquisition and Trail Planning

Location: North of Half Moon Bay, San Mateo County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$1,085,000  
Matching Funds: \$1,700,000

The Peninsula Open Space Trust will acquire the 119-acre Strickler property and design a 0.7-mile portion

## Peninsula Open Space Trust

### Bolsa Point Ranches Acquisition

Location: 20 miles south of Half Moon Bay near the Pigeon Point Lighthouse, San Mateo County Coast

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$5,000,000  
Matching Funds: \$34,000,000

Conservancy funds will be used to reimburse Peninsula Open Space Trust for the acquisition of the 1,719-acre Bolsa Point Ranches. This project is a priority for the Conservancy and other state resource agencies in recognition of the property's agricultural values, habitat areas, scenic and recreational resources, and opportunities to develop the Coastal Trail. In addition, the property is located within the State Highway 1 scenic





of the Coastal Trail on the Pillar Point Bluff. The project will protect prime coastal recreational, wetland, and scenic resources. The blufftop area is accessible from both Seal Cove and Princeton Harbor and is already popular with hikers who use existing footpaths crossing the property. However, severe erosion problems on blufftop edges pose risks for hikers and are detrimental to habitat value. A well-planned, safe Coastal Trail with erosion control measures in place would be of great public benefit, and would minimize impacts on the property's coastal habitat. The intertidal zone and offshore area immediately adjacent to the property are part of San Mateo County's Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, designated as a Marine Life Refuge and an Area of Special Biological Significance by the State of California. The property's blufftops provide excellent views of coastal tidepools and beaches to the west, and of the mountain ridges and picturesque agricultural lands of the Rancho Corral de Tierra property to the east.

## **Richardson Bay Regional Agency**

### **San Francisco Bay Plan Implementation Assistance**

Location: Richardson Bay, Marin County

- Matching Funds: \$30,170  
Note: Matching funds are through a grant from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

The Richardson Bay Regional Agency will carry out habitat enhancement in Richardson Bay to remove and properly dispose of marine debris that has settled along the shoreline and in shallow areas of the bay. The debris, consisting of items such as fishing nets and derelict boats, is hazardous to fish and wildlife. For example, shorebirds and waterfowl become entangled in the netting and derelict boats may leave behind a variety of pollutants, including oil and lead. During the last decade, the Agency has largely eliminated the vessels and other debris that had accumulated for some years. Now, the Agency is engaged in removing newly arrived materials before they can do significant damage to fish and wildlife habitat.

## **Sail San Francisco**

### **Tall Ships Exposition and Environmental Education Projects**

Location: Urban waterfront areas along the coast, including San Francisco Bay

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$125,000; Matching Funds: \$100,000

Sail San Francisco, a nonprofit organization, is coordinating visits of tall sailing ships and other vessels to California ports and engaging in environmental education for children. Since 2003, SSF has sponsored the visits of large sailing or training ships from Mexico, Japan, and Columbia as well as several west coast ships. Approximately 1,000 children from 13 Bay Area schools and youth groups toured foreign ships under SSF's sponsorship. Over 100,000 people boarded visiting vessels sponsored by Sail San Francisco in 2003. Current funding will help the organization to organize a major tall ship festival slated for San Francisco in the summer of 2005. Ships from over 20 foreign countries and many more from the west coast have been invited to this event that is expected to draw large crowds to the San Francisco waterfront. SSF is the main organizer of this festival and will take the lead in inviting over 60 ships, handling international protocol issues, public relations, marketing and community outreach; securing maritime services; and coordinating with the U.S. Department of State, foreign consuls and naval attaches. It will also develop themes for the event and many multi-cultural activities, as well as develop activities for school children.

## **San Francisco Estuary Institute**

### **South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Planning**

Location: San Francisco Bay, south of the San Mateo Bridge, in Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo Counties

- Matching Funds: \$200,000; Note: Matching funds are through a grant from Wildlife Conservation Board.

The San Francisco Estuary Institute will be providing data management work for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. SFEI will manage the data that is compiled or collected as part of the project, as well as manage the project web site, the primary venue for data sharing. The data management tasks to be conducted by SFEI will consist of the following: 1) management of a data warehouse and access system to store and share tabular data; 2) management of a central Geographic Information System (GIS) data server to store and share map-based data; 3) continued management of the existing web site (<http://www.southbayrestoration.org/>) and bibliographic database; and 4) inclusion and management of access tools for GIS and tabular data on the project web site. This data management work will build upon SFEI's commitment to collecting and sharing wetlands and water quality data relevant to scientists and resource managers in the San Francisco Estuary.



## Sotoyome Resource Conservation District

### Sonoma Coast Grazing Management Plan

Location: Western Sonoma County and applicable inland areas

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$60,000; Matching Funds: \$10,000

The Sotoyome Resource Conservation District will research, develop, and publish a grazing management plan for landowners and land managers within western Sonoma County and, where applicable, other areas of the coastal zone with similar habitat types. The Plan will address and provide management information about a resource that has been overlooked and, in some areas, badly neglected. As more coastal lands become public property and others continue to be grazed, it has become necessary to develop grazing information and techniques to assist landowners and land managers that improve range management and protect habitat values. Coastal grasslands are threatened in many areas by development, conversion to other land uses, and current grazing practices. The plan will include basic grassland management concepts as they relate to terrain, types of grassland, and climate. Some aspects of grazing will be discussed, such as: the appropriate level of disturbance, the effects of grazing on grassland health and native species, the use of fire as a management technique, and the economic and cultural benefits of grazing.

## Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District

### Watershed and Hazardous Conditions Signs: Sonoma County

Location: Russian River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds, in Sonoma County

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$60,000; Matching Funds: \$25,000

The Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District will design, produce, and place watershed and hazardous river condition signs for the Russian River and Sonoma Creek watersheds. The watershed signs will serve as educational resources with information regarding the creeks and their tributaries, and would identify entrances to the individual watersheds, provide the square miles, provide information on endangered species, and list pertinent emergency phone numbers. Additionally, the hazardous river conditions signs are needed for the Russian River and its major tributaries. The Russian River has areas that are not safe for those who cannot swim or are poor swimmers. Some of the hazardous conditions are: deep holes, eddies, quick sharp drop-offs, hidden debris, and steep river-banks. The SSCRCD will place the hazardous river conditions signs throughout the Russian River and Sonoma Creek watersheds.

## Sustainable Conservation

### Permit Roadmap for Off-Stream Water Storage: San Mateo and Northern Santa Cruz Counties

Location: Coastal watersheds of San Mateo and northern Santa Cruz Counties from the southern boundary of the City of Pacifica to the northern boundary of the City of Santa Cruz

- Additional Conservancy Funds: \$375,000  
Matching Funds: \$150,000

Sustainable Conservation is developing a permit roadmap for the construction and management of off-stream water storage ponds for agricultural purposes and riparian enhancement. A majority of the agricultural operations on the San Mateo and northern Santa Cruz coasts depend on summer diversion of water from perennial creeks and streams for irrigation and/or stock watering purposes. In streams with existing or historic populations of either of steelhead or Coho salmon, the State Department of Fish and Game requires minimum summer flow be maintained as habitat for the fish. Diverting water in the winter when flows are higher and storing that water in off-stream storage ponds appears to be a promising alternative to summer diversions, and one that would help maintain the viability of agriculture in the region. This project will help ensure that the siting, construction, operation, and maintenance of these water diversions and storage ponds would comply with all state and federal regulatory mandates and be compatible with watershed functions.



# STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE BAY AREA OPEN SPACE COUNCIL

Steve Abbors, Manager of Watershed and Recreation, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Natural Resources Department  
Craig Anderson, Executive Director, LandPaths  
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Tina Batt, Executive Director, Muir Heritage Land Trust  
Ralph Benson, Executive Director, Sonoma Land Trust  
Bob Berner, Executive Director, Marin Agricultural Land Trust  
Greg Betts, Superintendent, City of Palo Alto, Recreation, Open Space, and Sciences  
Mary Biggs, President, Bodega Land Trust  
Craig Britton, General Manager, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Craig Bronzan, Director, City of Brentwood, Parks and Recreation Department  
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Harriet Burgess, President, American Land Conservancy  
Sharon Burnham, Executive Director, Tri-Valley Conservancy  
Dan Cather, Public Services Manager, City of Walnut Creek, Public Services Department  
Janet Cobb, Executive Director, California Oak Foundation  
Laura Cohen, State Director, Rails to Trails Conservancy  
Patrick Congdon, Interim General Manager, Santa Clara County Open Space Authority  
Kenneth Craig, Superintendent, Livermore Area Recreation and Park District, Planning and Parks Department  
Bob Doyle, Assistant General Manager, East Bay Regional Park District  
Harry Englebright, Planner, County of Solano, Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group  
Barbara Hill, President, California State Parks Foundation  
Nadine Hitchcock, Program Manager, California State Coastal Conservancy  
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Lisa Killough, Director, County of Santa Clara, Parks and Recreation Department  
Ellen Koland, President, Half Moon Bay Open Space Trust  
Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District  
Jeremy Madsen, Field Director, Greenbelt Alliance  
Janet McBride, Bay Trail Project Manager, San Francisco Bay Trail Project  
Ron Miska, Assistant General Manager, Marin County Open Space District  
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Kerry Jo Ricketts-Ferris, Project Manager, Waterfront Openspace, City of Oakland  
Bettina Ring, Wilderness Land Trust  
Jesse Roseman, Butters Land Trust  
Audrey Rust, President, Peninsula Open Space Trust  
Philip Sales, Park Planning and Design Administrator, County of Sonoma, Regional Parks Department  
Fred Smith, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Brisbane  
Mike Stallings, Director, City of Daly City, Parks and Recreation Department  
Brian Steen, Executive Director, Sempervirens Fund  
Karen Sweet, Executive Officer, Alameda County Resource Conservation District  
Terri Thomas, Natural Resources Program Manager, The Presidio Trust  
Richard Thompson, Program Manager, Agricultural Trust of Contra Costa County  
Holly Van Houten, Executive Director, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council  
Lloyd Wagstaff, Mount Hamilton Project Director, The Nature Conservancy  
Tim Wirth, Project Manager, Trust for Public Land

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Neil Havlik, Natural Resources Manager, City of San Luis Obispo, Natural Resources Protection Program  
Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Executive Director, Committee for Green Foothills

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## STAFF

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